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# Find a Way to Make a Difference

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*Indiana University School of Law*

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## Find a Way to Make a Difference

*The following is adapted from an address to the entering class.*

Congratulations on this, the very first day of your legal careers at the Indiana University School of Law. Congratulations on the achievements that have brought you here and on your achievements yet to come.

You join a long line of very illustrious students who have received their education at this great law school. Some of you may have already noticed the wall of photographs outside the Moot Court Room where members of the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows are honored. In that group of IU law graduates are some of the most distinguished lawyers of our times. Wendell Willkie is there. Justice Florida Romero of the Supreme Court of the Philippines is there; as is Jim Fitzpatrick, a dedicated defender of free speech; Professor Jost Delbrück, our transatlantic colleague from Kiel, Germany, who teaches in Bloomington every fall; and a host of others as well. You are now a part of the IU law family. As you will be in the future, these are lawyers who have made their mark in the world of law, politics, business, public policy, and the arts. There is room for you, too, on this wall.

We also prize our ties to our graduates whose fame is of a different sort, who toil quietly in their own communities and are best known to their own clients, families, and the community leaders with whom they work every day. These are the lawyers whose integrity, imagination, caring, compassion, and skill make the law a reality in the lives of the people they serve. There is room for



Dean Alfred Aman

you in your communities, wherever you settle. Contrary to what you might have heard before you came here, there is and always will be a need for lawyers in a just society.

I congratulate you not only for your achievements and the academic record that brings you here as a student, but also because of what I know awaits you here. At this law school, we have one of the best law faculties in the country. Indiana is a place where teaching and research go hand in hand. Our professors are on the cutting edge of their own scholarly fields, and they bring all of this expertise and knowledge into the classroom. The law is always changing, and sometimes very dramatically. What we try to accomplish at this school is to give you the broad conceptual frameworks necessary for you to deal with problems in the future — some of which we can only guess at today. We will give you skills to grow on, since your careers will help lay the legal foundation of

the 21st century and beyond. You will study the fundamentals of our legal system — property, criminal law, contracts, torts, civil procedure, and the Constitution. You will hone your writing skills, and you will have opportunities to try cases as well as to mediate and negotiate settlements. You can study the relationship of law to high technology here — in areas involving computers, communications, and genetics. You can take various interdisciplinary perspectives on law, and you can study the globalization of law, international and comparative law, and business and corporate issues in new contexts, both transnational and domestic. And since this law school is part of a great university, you can find languages, philosophies and histories, arts and sciences, just outside our door.

Our mission, with your help, is to enable you to deal with the issues and problems of the 21st century and to help others deal with them. We hope your education here will challenge you, and that these challenges will turn out to be a useful dress rehearsal for what the future will demand of you. Our commitment is to you now, for the sake of your future service as professionals. Our mission, then, centers on you as individuals and your capacity for growth, concern, and engagement.

You will learn an enormous amount from the teachers that you will have. Many of you will develop lasting professional relationships with these faculty members. But I dare say that most of you will learn as much and maybe even more outside the classroom in your

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## Dean's Message

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discussions about law and legal issues among yourselves. Law is an intensely human undertaking in which there are few easy or cut and dried answers. Much of it has to be analyzed from multiple points of view before you have a sense of what might be best for society and what might be best for your client. The diversity of your class and of this school is an asset, as it is in any productive learning environment. We look forward to the diversity of your perspectives. We do more than look forward to them, we need them. Your legal education is not something we do to or for you. It is an ongoing and collaborative process, like the law itself.

You come from all over the United States and some of you have come from abroad. You have a rich variety of educational backgrounds in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional fields. This is an extraordinarily important asset in your education because your diversity as a group will help teach you to listen and express yourselves as individuals.

Sensitive listening, careful reading, and precise self-expression are three of the major skills you will need in law school and in your legal careers. Many times in the classroom or in the library you will hear or read points of view you have never heard or considered before and others with which you disagree. This is as it should be. This is a place where imagination, argument, and community are partners. Your classrooms should be lively settings in which you

should feel free to speak, argue, disagree, and listen.

I mentioned at the outset that the photographs on the wall outside honor very distinguished graduates of our law school. This year, we have added five more alumni to this group. Senator Birch Bayh has been added. He is well known for his terms as a U.S. senator from Indiana and as the author of the 25th and 26th amendments to the Constitution. We have also honored Judge Franklin Cleckley, a distinguished legal scholar and now a justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court, the first African American to sit on that court.

We have also inducted John Carroll, for his dedicated service as a lawyer with the firm of Johnson Carroll & Griffith in Evansville, Indiana, and we inducted John Houghton, an eminent lawyer in the firm of Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis. We also honored one of our graduates posthumously. Many may know his name and may be surprised to hear it here. It is Hoagy Carmichael, a member of the Class of 1926. Hoagy Carmichael was one of this country's most important composers, truly a national treasure. His music has lasted the decades and there are few composers about whom that can be said. "Stardust," "Up a Lazy River," "Georgia on My Mind" are tunes you have all heard, since they are so often readapted to new audiences in new musical styles. One of the hallmarks of his genius was his ability to write music that could speak to generation after generation.

We honor Hoagy Carmichael to celebrate the importance of creativity and imagination in the law and in

legal education. Personally, I think that the great lawyers are all great composers, just as Hoagy Carmichael was. Great compositions are carefully crafted and come from the deepest parts of a musician's talent and knowledge. They represent the ultimate combination of inspiration and craftsmanship. Justice, too, requires creativity; the search for justice demands art and optimism, and the realization of justice requires craftsmanship.

As you prepare for your first class, you deserve to feel proud, proud to be at this law school and proud to be a lawyer. I hope you will approach your career here as an exciting intellectual opportunity to learn and to grow, to think some ideas for the very first time, yet recognize them as your own. Your legal education is your opportunity as a citizen of your community, nation, and the world, to become a voice for humane, creative, constructive legal development and change. This is what generations of Indiana University law students have done in the past, turning their legal educations into meaningful vocations and, we hope, into a life-long sense of personal fulfillment. This is our wish for you. ■

### Help Make a Difference

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